

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AF-10 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 /198 W
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R 131730 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8302

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IT, IS, SP

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PERSPECTIVE ON EC PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS APRIL 12 KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH EC ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (FRANCISCI AND
GRANDI) PROVIDED CURRENT ITALIAN THINKING ON EVOLVING EC RELATIONS
WITH MEDITERRANEAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

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2. THEY NOTED IMPROVED CLIMATE BETWEEN US AND EC COMMISSION ON SUBJECT OF REVERSE PREFERENCES OVER PAST FEW WEEKS AND THOUGHT DIALOGUE MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION, PARTICULARLY NOTING SOAMES/ CASEY MEETING. THEY NOTED THAT IN THEIR VIEW REVERSE PREFERENCES WERE ABOUT TO BECOME NON- ISSUE WRYLY CHARACTERIZING LIKELY SITUATION AS " REVERSE GENERALIZED PREFERENCES." THEY EXPRESSED OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT THIRD COUNTRY BENEFIT FROM SUCH SITUATION MIGHT BE AS NON- QUANTIFIABLE AS WAS DAMAGE FOR OUTSIDERS SUSTAINED FROM DISCRIMINATORY REVERSE PREFERENCES. THEY AGREED THAT FRANCE AND CERTAIN YAOUNDE COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE BE DIFFICULT ON THIS ISSUE.

3. FRANCISCI, WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER MEDICI ON RECENT VISIT TO ISRAEL, SAID THAT ISRAELIS HAD NOT PUSHED ITALIANS AS HARD AS HAD BEEN EXPECTED ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH EC (TEL AVIV 2509; SEE ROME 2538 FOR POLITICAL ASPECTS). IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, FRANCISCI SAID AGREEMENT WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, INCLUDING CITRUS. ITALIAN PRICES WOULD BE GUARANTEED MARKETING SYSTEM FOR ITALIAN CITRUS IN ENLARGED EC WHERE IT CONSTITUTES ROUGHLY 3 PERCENT OF TOTAL CONSUMPTION. MFA OFFICIALS WERE NOT PRECISE ON HOW THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BUT SEEMED CONFIDENT THEIR EC PARTNERS WOULD AGREE. THEY SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT THIS SCHEME WOULD RESOLVE PROBLEM OF GRANTING ACCESS TO MEDITERRANEAN SUPPLIERS WHILE SAFEGUARDING ITALIAN CITRUS INTERESTS.

4. GRANDI, WHO PARTICIPATED IN EC/ SPAIN JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN MADRID APRIL 5, SAID GOS HAD USED OCCASION TO OUTLINE SPANISH DESIDERATA FOR NEW AGREEMENT WITH EC WHICH IN MANY WAYS PARALLELED THOSE OF ISRAEL.

5. MFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED DOUBT WHETHER REAL GOLVAL EC MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WOULD BE ACHIEVED GIVEN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN EACH COUNTRY AND IMPLIED THAT EFFORT WOULD SOON BE FOCUSED ON SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING MANDATES.

6. ON COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR RENEGOTIATED YAOUNDE AGREEMENT, FONOFF OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SUGGESTED COMMODITY STABILIZATION ARRANGEMENTS LIKELY BE VERY COSTLY FOR COMMUNITY AND DIFFICULT IMPLEMENT IN SATISFACTORY MANNER. BEAUDRY

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To: BONN
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